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# RING IN 2009 ON OUR DIME

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**eye**

**Monday**  
DECEMBER 29, 2008

[redeyechicago.com](http://redeyechicago.com)

A Chicago Tribune  
publication

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REDEYE ILLUSTRATION



# happy banniversary

It's been a year since Chicago bars and other public places  
went smoke-free. But will the rules hit closer to home in '09?

**pages 6-7**





# 45 28

## TODAY'S FORECAST

Yippee! Compared with last week, this is bikini weather.



TUE.  
**45**  
**23**

Chance of late snow



WED.  
**29**  
**20**

Surprise, it's cold again!



THU.  
**45**  
**22**

Damn. Chance of snow.



FRI.  
**30**  
**19**

Oh, joy. Chance of snow.

# 2do

## txtable

### Aye, aye caption

Text us a funny caption for the photo at right and we'll print the best in Tuesday's RedEye. To give it a shot text the word "caption" followed by your brief caption and your name to **47383**. Good luck!

### To relax

Indulge yourself while helping others at Dana Hotel and Spa (660 N. State St.), where 10 percent of proceeds from the spa will be donated to Greenhouse Shelter through Wednesday.

### To learn

If you want to know how to make marshmallows, test a smoke detector or get a good seat on your next flight, you can find a guide among the more than 48,000 articles at **wikihow.com**.

### To eat

Expand your palate at **foodzie.com**, where users can browse and order food from small artisan producers and growers. The goods range from aged cheddar to single malt scotch caramels.

### To ding

Instead of obsessively clicking the refresh button when your favorite Web site goes down, plug it into **dingitsup.com** to get an e-mail when the site is operational again.



## Write a song for G-Rod

While out jogging recently, Gov. Blagojevich told a Tribune reporter he runs because "it keeps love in your heart."

RedEye saw those words and instantly thought song.

So let's make it into one.

Here's our challenge to Chicago's aspiring songwriters: Take the lyric "Keep Love In Your Heart" and create a song using it. It can be the title, or just part of a verse, but it must be included in an original song—any kind of song—about Blagojevich.

Every song will be posted at **redychicago.com**. Our staff will choose finalists and a winner. This isn't a contest to write new lyrics to an existing song. We want you to create an original song. And the winner will perform the song live on the WGN Midday News. That's live!

The deadline is Jan. 5. Please e-mail complete songs to **blagolove@yahoo.com**. Send questions to **skleinberg@tribune.com**.



# CELEBRATING AT HOME? CHECK OUT SAM'S NEW YEARS EVE CHECKLIST!



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A Palestinian protester on Sunday throws stones at Israeli troops during clashes at a demonstration against Israel's military operation in Gaza, in the Shuafat refugee camp, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. AP

# GAZA ASSAULT CONTINUES

## ISRAELI WARPLANES TARGET WEAPONS-SMUGGLING TUNNELS

### Associated Press

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip** Warplanes pressing one of Israel's deadliest assaults ever against Palestinian militants widened their sights on Sunday, dropping bombs on smuggling tunnels that are a major weapons pipeline for the Gaza Strip's Islamic Hamas rulers.

Israel's Cabinet authorized the military to call up 6,500 reserve soldiers for a possible ground invasion and moved tanks, infantry and armored units to the Gaza border. Since it began Saturday, Israel's offensive against Gaza rocket squads has been carried out exclusively from the air.

Crowds of Gazans, backed by a bulldozer, breached the border wall with Egypt to escape the chaos.

The airstrikes, which initially targeted Hamas security compounds, killed more than 280 Palestinians and wounded hundreds more in its first 24 hours, said Gaza health official Dr. Moaiya Hassanain. A Palestinian human rights group said

among 251 dead it counted, 20 were children under 16 and nine were women.

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights said it was difficult to keep an exact count because of chaos at hospitals, and difficulty in identifying dismembered bodies.

Battered militants managed to launch more than 20 rockets and mortars at Israeli border communities. The number of attacks was down sharply from a day earlier, indicating the Israeli airstrikes took a stiff toll. Israel's head of military intelligence told Israel's Cabinet on Sunday that Hamas' ability to fire rockets had been reduced by 50 percent.

Still, two rockets struck close to Israel's largest southern city, Ashdod, reaching deeper into Israel than ever before, and confirming Israel's concern that militants are now able to put major cities within rocket range. No serious injuries were reported. The rockets landed some 23 miles (38 kilometers) from Gaza, doubling

### VIOLENT BACKLASH

Condemnations and protests against the Israeli offensive swept the Arab world for a second straight day, occasionally turning violent. A suicide bomber on a bicycle blew himself up in the midst of a large demonstration in northern Iraq. Israeli troops fired on a violent protest in the West Bank, killing a Palestinian man.

the militants' previous range.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said it was unclear when the operation would end. The situation in southern Israel "is liable to last longer than we are able to foresee at this time," he told his Cabinet.

The carnage has inflamed Arab public opinion, and the diplomatic fallout came swiftly.

A Syrian official said Damascus would suspend indirect peace talks with Israel, begun earlier this year, over the Gaza attacks.

The Israeli army says Palestinian militants have fired more than 300 rockets and mortars at Israeli targets over the past week and 10 times that number over the past year.

## Laura stands by her man

### Associated Press

First Lady Laura Bush disagrees with critics who call the presidency of George W. Bush a failure. In an interview that aired on "Fox News Sunday," Laura Bush said that under her husband's watch, the U.S. toppled Saddam Hussein and liberated millions of people in Afghanistan and Iraq from oppressive governments, among other accomplishments.

Her response to specific criticisms follow.

### On the accusation that her husband's presidency was a failure:

"I know it's not, and so I don't really feel like I need to respond to people that view it that way. I think history will judge and we'll see later."

### On the Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at the president:

"The president laughed it off. ... As you know, he's a natural athlete and ducked it. But on the other hand, it is an assault. And I think it should be treated that way. And I think people should think of it that way.

"As bad as the incident is, in my view, it is a sign that Iraqis feel a lot freer to express themselves."

### On the belief that Iraq was a distraction to the U.S. mission in Afghanistan:

"I don't think that's true at all. We've stayed very, very invested in Afghanistan. ... I've met thousands, literally thousands, of different people who are Americans who are invested in Afghanistan in some way. Women who are helping women there, the educated. Women who are helping with microfinance so that women can build small businesses and support themselves."

## Good riddance!

Sunday was the second annual Good Riddance Day in the Big Apple, where New Yorkers were encouraged to get rid of their bad memories from 2008—whether that meant shredding bank statements or photos of their cheating fiancés. A sledgehammer is being provided to those who'd prefer to have their lingering 2008 memories smashed to pieces, the AP reports.

Here are a few things RedEye would toss in the shredder:

- » "Blagojevich 2016" buttons
- » Us Weekly's "Spencer and Heidi elope!" issue
- » Discarded parking ticket envelopes
- » CTA bus schedule
- » Cubs season tickets





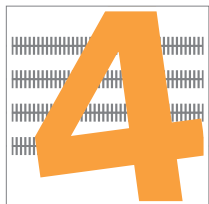
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## SIGHTINGS

Tyrese celebrated his 30th birthday Tuesday at Crobar.

>> Vince Vaughn was spotted shopping at Water Tower Place and picking up lattes across the street at King Cafe on Wednesday afternoon. >> "Will & Grace" star Sean Hayes hung out at Joie de Vine on Saturday night.

**MORE ONLINE**  
There's more Liz at [thesebootsaremadeforstalking.com](http://thesebootsaremadeforstalking.com)

**Aniston and Winfrey**



## City a playground for the stars in '08

2008 was an exciting year for celebrity news in Chicago. Here are some of the highlights you read about in Eye Contact this year.

>> Tony Romo had a wild boys' weekend out in Chicago in May—including a trip to the bars in Lakeview—fueling rumors that he and Jessica Simpson had broken up. Since then, things seem to be much better. Simpson has been to the Windy City twice since then, and both times she's been here she's gushed to fans about her beau.

>> Brad Pitt came to town in November and appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" for the first time since his split with O's BFF Jennifer Aniston. In the at-times awkward interview, Pitt talked about his life with Angelina Jolie and their six children and his new film, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." A week later, Aniston went on "Oprah" to promote her film, "Marley & Me."

>> Speaking of Oprah Winfrey, she went out a few times this year, which is rare for the talk show queen. Winfrey dined with Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes at Cite restaurant, took in a Tina Turner concert and went to Ralph Lauren for dinner one night with Gayle King.

>> President-elect Obama and soon-to-be First Lady Michelle brought national attention to several of the city's hot spots during the campaign and after the election. Some of their favorite places have been highlighted in this column: Spiaggia, Manny's, Pops for Champagne, The Drake and Michelle's longtime salon, Van Cleef.

>> Several movies that filmed in Chicago in 2007 premiered to big crowds this year in theaters, including "The Dark Knight," "Wanted" and "Nothing Like the Holidays." All three had premiere parties in the Windy City, and celebrities showed up at a few of them.

>> Finally, Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson visited Chicago several times this year. The two visited for Ronson's set at Lollapalooza and for her regular spinning gig at Crimson Lounge. On every trip, the two did not hold back from expressing their affection for each other.



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**Editor:** Tran Ha  
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Lisa Schmitz

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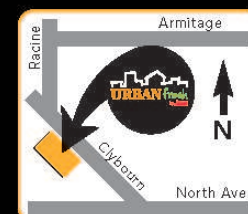
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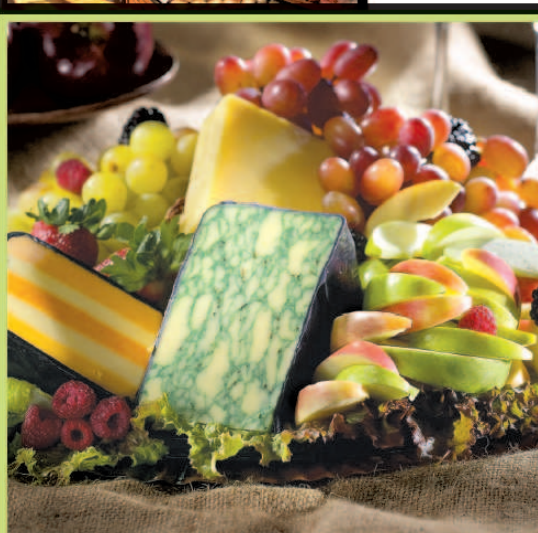

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# What's next for smokers?

**It's been a year since the state banned smoking in public places. Could residences be next?**

**By Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz**  
REDEYE

In the year since the Illinois smoking ban snuffed out cigarettes in bars, Jake Perry has drastically cut back—not on cigarettes, but on bars.

“It’s just not fun anymore,” said Perry, 34, who used to hit the bars every weekend and now rarely ventures out.

“You have to go outside, you can’t drink your beer while you’re smoking a cigarette,” he said. “Even nonsmokers you’re with get annoyed because suddenly a bunch of people decide to go outside to smoke, so they’re left sitting by themselves.”

Instead, Perry, an actor and writer, has friends over to his Lakeview condo, where he and his wife have stocked up on cartons of cigarettes that they buy when they’re in the suburbs or out of state to avoid Chicago’s high cigarette taxes.

Vehemently opposed to what he considers an unconstitutional smoking ban, Perry takes heart that smoking is sacred in the privacy of his own home.

But if Chicago follows the example of other cities across the country, residences could be the next front in the smoking wars.

Several California cities have adopted legislation restricting smoking in apartments. In Calabasas, Calif.—which made national headlines in 2006 when it banned smoking in all public places where anyone might be exposed to secondhand smoke, including sidewalks—a law enacted in February requires that 80 percent of apartment buildings be smoke-free by 2012.

Even without legislation, landlords nationwide are increasingly opting to ban or restrict smoking in apartment buildings in response to a rise in complaints about secondhand smoke traveling between units, said Betsy Feigin Befus, vice president and counsel with the National Multi-Housing Council, which is based in Washington.

“This is an emerging trend,” Feigin Befus said.

For smoking rights activists, it’s an unnerving trend. Gary Nolan, U.S. regional

## THE RULES

The Smoke-Free Illinois Act, in effect since Jan. 1, 2008, prohibits smoking in all public places, places of employment, student dormitories and government vehicles. It also bans smoking within 15 feet of any entrance or window of a place where smoking is prohibited.

The only exemptions are private residences, retail tobacco stores, private rooms in nursing homes and no more than 25 percent of hotel and motel rooms. Fines for violators range from \$100 to \$250, while the owner of a place where a violation occurs can be fined \$250 to \$2,500.

director for the Citizens Freedom Alliance and the Smokers Club, said he has no problem with property owners choosing to make their buildings smoke-free if they wish, but forcing it through legislation infringes on private property rights, which he says are “already slipping through our fingers.”

“My guess is they’re going to go after apartments and condos next, if not cars,” Nolan said. Several states already ban smoking in cars when a minor is present. “Their ultimate goal is to eliminate anybody being seen smoking,” Nolan said, “and every one of those steps is heading in that direction.”

For now in Illinois, anti-smoking proponents are more concerned with implementing the smoking ban in effect since Jan. 1 than waging a smoke-free apartment campaign.

“We’re not ruling it out, but we’re still dealing with regular attempts to weaken the law as it exists,” said Mike Grady, the American Cancer Society’s Illinois director of public policy and government relations.

Grady said there were seven separate bills offered in the last legislative session to repeal or weaken the Smoke-Free Illinois Act, including proposals to exempt casinos, veterans organizations, private clubs and adult entertainment venues. All were defeated.

Rather than legislate, Illinois anti-smoking advocates hope to encourage landlords and condo associations to ban smoking voluntarily, said Kathy Drea, director of public policy at

**Studies on the impact of Illinois’ smoking ban are not yet completed, but the Illinois Quit Line saw calls spike in the first three months of 2008.**

RACHAEL STRECHER  
FOR REDEYE

the American Lung Association of Illinois and Greater Chicago.

“We get an unbelievable amount of calls on this issue,” Drea said. “We will be working on smoke-free apartment buildings or condos, just not through passing bills or legislation.” (The group does, however, plan to propose a bill to increase the Illinois cigarette tax from 98 cents to \$1.98 a pack, Drea said.)

Landlords are legally entitled to ban or restrict smoking, so long as they add the provision at lease renewal rather than amend an existing lease, Feigin Befus said. Smokers are not a protected class under the Fair Housing Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act, and apartment owners may actually be held more liable for allowing smoking than restricting it because of the risk of fire and potential damage to other tenants’ health, she said. Smoking tenants also cost more in maintenance, as the carpets have to be cleaned and a special paint applied to the walls to block the odor once they move out,

running \$400 to \$3,000.

Condo associations also can ban or restrict smoking in their buildings, including in individual units, said attorney Charles VanderVennet, whose Arlington Heights-based practice concentrates on condos and homeowners associations.

VanderVennet this year helped a 60-unit North Shore condo building become smoke-free after several condo owners complained that they could smell the smoke coming from their neighbors’ units. At least 75 percent of the owners had to approve the smoke-free amendment to the condo covenant in order for it to be binding on everyone—and 82 percent of them did.

“I suspect they weren’t pleased,” VanderVennet said of the smoking condo owners. “But when the unit owner bought into the condo association, they are bound by the terms of the covenant, and the covenant said the document could be amended.”

The Smoke-Free Environments Law







# The ban's impact

From bars to beaches, from parks to the stage, cigarettes have been purged from much of the city. Even connoisseurs who crossed oceans in May to attend the Chicagoland International Pipe and Tobacciana Show, the country's largest pipe collectors gathering, were relegated to smoking in a tent 15 feet away from the convention floor.

As the first anniversary of the state's smoking ban approaches, RedEye looked into how people and businesses have been affected. Studies on the impact of the ban have yet to be completed, so the evidence is anecdotal. **ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ**

## Smoking rates

About 20.2 percent of Illinois adults smoked in 2007, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It remains to be seen if the state ban will drive that rate down, but many smokers say they've cut back.

Jeremy Corderman, 27, of Oak Forest, said he used to smoke about 10 cigarettes during a typical night out at the bar, but after the smoking ban he goes outside for just two or three. His friend Jason Moore, 28, of Lincoln Square, said the ban "made it easier to quit" when he decided to stop in May.

Carol Southard, a tobacco treatment specialist with Northwestern University Physicians Group who runs **quitoncechicago.com**, said she saw "a bit of a surge" in people trying to quit in January, but that has since died down.

Calls to the Illinois Quit Line (866-QUIT-YES), run by the American Lung Association, increased to 7,791 new callers from January to March this year from 6,887 during the same period in 2007.

Ironically, some Chicago retailers say they've seen an increase in cigarette sales since the ban because people are buying in bulk (a pack of cigarettes costs \$8 to \$9 in Chicago, including tax).

"We're selling more tobacco products now than before the ban," said Preetesh Duvvuric, a cashier at a downtown 7-Eleven, where customers save \$1 if they buy two packs at a time.

## Hookah lounges

Hookah lounges and cigar shops are among the few public places where people still can smoke inside. But some hookah lounge owners say the ban has saddled them with difficult restrictions and hasn't brought them much additional business.

The Smoke-Free Illinois Act allows smoking in retail tobacco stores that derive more than 80 percent of their revenue from the sale of tobacco and smoking accessories, but those venues cannot serve any liquor or food—including espresso drinks. (They can sell prepackaged items, like bottled water and sodas.)

Mounir Zekkari, owner of Arabia

Hookah Bar and Cafe in Noble Square, said the city recently slapped him with three tickets—for a total of \$1,500—for serving coffee and a banana.

"Eventually, if I tell people that we don't serve coffee, they're not going to want to come," he said.

In addition, any new hookah lounges that opened after Jan. 1 must be located in a free-standing structure occupied solely by that business, which is hard to afford.

"It's basically crushed our dreams to expand," said Ryan Khalil, owner of Hookah Hookah in Lakeview, which has been open for three years.

Tobacco shops also haven't become a refuge for smokers looking to puff indoors. When Mario's Taco Shop in Humboldt Park decided to transform itself into the Caganchos cigar shop just before the ban, the owners thought it would become a destination for people to gather and smoke, but that hasn't happened, said Mario Martinez, whose family owns the business.

## Bar business

Though it's unclear if stagnant or dipping bar revenue is due to the bad economy or the smoking ban, Dan Clausner, executive director of the Illinois Licensed Beverage Association, said business has suffered much more in bars located near the border of states where smoking is permitted, such as Wisconsin, Missouri and Indiana.

"We've had some of our members [near the border] report as much as a 70 percent decline from the previous year's business," said Clausner, whose group opposes the ban.

Several Chicago bar owners interviewed said business has not been affected by the ban.

Uptown bar Big Chicks, which saw business plunge 50 percent when it voluntarily banned smoking last year before the state ban went into effect, has seen business stabilize since all bars went smoke-free, owner Michelle Fire said.

"The people who were mad at me eventually came around," Fire said. "I know the staff suffers from less upper chest ailments."

Project, a Michigan-based initiative, said in a year-end report that there was "enormous growth" in smoke-free multi-unit buildings in 2007 and 2008, and it called smoke-free housing "the hot new amenity."

In Chicago, a new apartment complex in the South Loop touts itself as the city's first smoke-free apartment community. Opened in June, AMLI 900 prohibits smoking anywhere in the building, including on balconies and on the rooftop deck. First-time violators get a warning, then are fined \$250 for a second violation and \$500 for violations thereafter. Fines are donated to the American Lung Association.

"We have found that 99 percent of people walking through the door are very excited about the policy," said Jennifer Wolf, senior vice president at AMLI Residential. The complex is 40 percent leased.

Illinois has been slower than many other states to catch on to the smoke-free living wave.

Jane Garvey, president of the Chicago

Creative Investors Association, an educational group for landlords and property investors, said that while she thinks smoke-free apartments are a good idea, she hasn't seen many landlords attempting it because they can't always afford to turn smoking tenants away.

"Landlords are still having trouble finding people able to pay rent," Garvey said.

As he puffed on a cigarette outside a downtown bar on a recent 20-degree evening, Mark Lancaster, 30, said banning smoking in residences crosses the line.

Lancaster, who lives in Rogers Park, supports the smoking ban in bars.

"It's better for other people, and it's not a problem for me," he said before throwing his butt in a trash can (he hates when smokers litter).

But if apartments are the next anti-smoking frontier, Lancaster said he won't be so compliant.

"I'd break that rule," he said.

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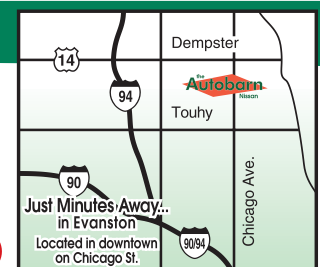
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# chicago

## Massive transit issues reigned in '08

By Jon Hilkevitch

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Chicago-area commuters began 2008 facing the threat of a mass-transit meltdown, and at year's end transportation services in Illinois remain so dicey that icy winter roads aren't being salted and plowed as much as in past years.

Here are Getting Around's picks for the top five transportation stories of 2008.

### 1. CTA 'Doomsday'

In January state lawmakers prevented a transit "Doomsday" by approving new operating subsidies for the CTA, Pace and Metra. Although deep service cuts and fare hikes were avoided, relief from budget deficits was short-lived when Gov. Blagojevich decided to offer free rides to senior citizens. As a result of all the non-paying transit customers as well as fuel prices soaring to record highs over the summer, the CTA and Pace will hike fares in 2009.

### 2. Economy hits O'Hare

Expansion of O'Hare reached a milestone last month with the opening of the first new runway in 37 years. But the additional flight capacity arrived at a time when it is hardly needed. The airlines have slashed flights, and it's unclear whether 2009 will usher in an upturn.

### 3. Suburban choo-choos

Federal regulators approved a controversial plan to unclog some of the freight train traffic moving through the Chicago area. The Canadian National Railway received the go-ahead to divert trains through the suburbs by acquiring the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway from U.S. Steel.

### 4. Got traffic?

For an average of 13 hours and 19 minutes each day, vehicle speeds were less than 50 mph on at least 20 percent of the Chicago-area highway system, according to the Federal Highway Administration. That was 42 more minutes of congestion daily compared with 2007.

### 5. Smoother roads ahead

A federal economic stimulus package that was being debated at the close of 2008 would include major funding to repair and expand the nation's transportation infrastructure. Illinois would greatly benefit.



Gene Head on Sunday walks outside his home. The River Forest man has waist-high water in his basement. KUNI TAKAHASHI/TRIBUNE

# Whew!

While some folks had problems, the devastating flooding forecast never materialized

### Chicago Tribune

Remember all that talk late last week about the worst flooding in years?

Well, roads were closed, basements waterlogged and low land submerged, but the large-scale flooding that might have been was not. And rain is out of the forecast until next year.

"We have five days to dry out," said Amy Seeley, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. "If anyone did have problems, they don't have to worry about any precipitation for a few days here."

The Chicago Water Reclamation District opened the sluice gates in Wilmette, sending storm and sewage water into Lake Michigan. But they did not have to open the gates at the O'Brien

lock on the city's South Side, said spokeswoman Jill Horist.

Citywide, there was water in basements and standing on streets from slow-draining catch basins, but the river did not flood, said Tom LaPorte, spokesman for the Department of Water Management.

Folks in Riverside stood on guard for flooding Saturday night into Sunday. Some still were repairing damage from September, the last time the Des Plaines River surged. This time, the river stopped well over a foot shy of those levels.

Not that the cleanup won't be a pain for Gene Head, 50. The River Forest man has waist-high water in his basement. He had thrown away most of the stuff in his basement after the last flood and now he'll

likely throw away the rest, he said.

About the only silver lining Head could find about Mother Nature's two-punch combo is learning how to duck a little better on the second swing. He moved the cars before the storm, sandbagged the back door and knew better than to fret.

"This time we were like, 'There's nothing you can do about it,'" he said.

Several other areas, including Bolingbrook and Warrenville, saw roads closed and minor home flooding, but evaded the worst-case scenarios.

"We have to plan for the worst and hope for the best, and what we got was somewhere in between those," said Kent McKenzie, Lake County (Ill.) emergency management coordinator.





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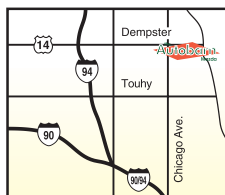
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## AT&T cell phone outage

A power failure at an AT&T facility in Michigan resulted in intermittent mobile service outages Sunday for customers in Chicago, the company reported. As of late Sunday evening, AT&T reported that almost everything was back to normal, but that technicians would continue working through the night to fix problem spots. Get the latest details from RedEye's iPhone, Therefore I Blog at [iptib.com](http://iptib.com).

## Man slain in Bronzeville

A 26-year-old man was shot and killed in Bronzeville on Saturday afternoon, authorities said. Anthony Curtis, of the 2700 block of West 99th Street, was found by police in the 4900 block of South Indiana Avenue around 4 p.m., police said. He was pronounced dead at the scene by officials from the Cook County medical examiner's office about 6:30 p.m.

## CTA train operator hurt

The driver of a CTA train fell on the southbound Blue Line tracks Saturday night near Morgan Street, causing power to be shut off for about 30 minutes while paramedics responded. The train had a mechanical problem and the driver left the cab to inspect it, said Kim Myles, a CTA spokeswoman. The worker slipped and was injured but did not land on the third rail, she said.

## Children involved in two-car crash

Two children, 8 and 12, were taken to a hospital in good condition to be checked out as a precaution after two-vehicle crash at 300 E. Jackson Boulevard, near Michigan Avenue, according to Chicago police and fire officials. The accident happened about 11:25 a.m. Sunday between an SUV and another vehicle. No one else was injured, authorities said.

## Tough on DUI

Motorists busted for drunken driving in Illinois after Jan. 1 will have to blow into a device and prove their sobriety every time they get behind the wheel—or their car won't start. The restriction is part of a new law that appears to be the state's biggest crackdown since .08 became the blood-alcohol standard in summer 1997. The measure is one of the strictest in the nation.



The slush-covered Michigan Avenue Bridge walkway will undergo a \$3.5 million makeover in the coming months. **CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE**

# A more beautiful Michigan Ave. bridge

Beginning in January, the city will restore decorative handrails on the Michigan Avenue bridge to a design reminiscent of their original 1920s Beaux Arts pattern while also replacing sidewalks on the bridge with non-skid fiberglass decking.

The project will restore a stroke of beauty to one of the city's most iconic tourist and pedestrian landmarks and address one of Chicago's iciest river crossings. But it also promises to snarl pedestrian traffic for up to six months as first one side of the bridge and then the other is closed in the \$3.5 million face-lift.

"This is something that has been planned for at least a couple of years," said Chicago Department of Transportation spokesman Brian Steele. Because pedestrian counts are lower now, he added, "winter is a better time to handle this type of construction."

The bridge was designed by Chicago architect Edward Bennett. One of the first priorities of the plan was the double-deck bridge finished in 1920 to link the north side of Michigan Avenue with the southern end and downtown.

The interlaced diamond pattern of the original railings will be recreated (though with smaller gaps in the lattice, bringing them up to modern code) as new deck plates are installed to reduce the ice-rink quality the bridge has had in recent years.

If Venice has its Bridge of Sighs, Chicago has on Michigan Avenue its Bridge of Muttered Curses. Four years ago, metal deck plates were covered with a polyurethane non-skid surface, Steele said. "Because of the high traffic on that bridge, it has deteriorated."

Though conceptually simple, renovating one of the city's landmark bascule-style bridges involves painstaking attention to detail.



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'05 HONDA CR-V EX 4X4	ABS, Multi-CD, Moonroof	\$17,990
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**Javier Hernandez, MBA**  
on-campus in Wheeling

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**Toni Johnson, MBA on-site at**  
**Children's Memorial Hospital**

*"It seems like it was just yesterday... not five years ago. Every Thursday, 5:00pm, I literally got off work, went downstairs, and I would be in class. Since I got my MBA I have been able to assume additional responsibilities...and I got a promotion."*



**Ana Maria Soto, MBA**  
in her community at El Valor

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## Twitter top stories

Every day, RedEye reports the top stories, but we wanted your opinion about what you think topped the news of 2008. While the election got the most votes, you had some interesting alternate choices. Want to see your Twitter name here? Sign up at [twitter.com/redeyechicago](http://twitter.com/redeyechicago).

**@sam\_ash**  
new kids on the block reunion tour.

**@josievodden**  
Gay issues becoming front page worldwide, Mumbai, Race to the White House.

**@courtneyivo**  
The release of "The Dark Knight" :D

**@RoxieRavenclaw**  
Electing Barack Obama as President. Amazing. I never thought I'd see this happen in my lifetime.

**@lp123**  
the historical 2008 election—and of course, Britney Spears' comeback.

**@Fortitude1913**  
You have to ask, seriously? Biggest story of 2008: Barack Obama! Yes We Can!

**@mollylynch**  
Sarah Palin as hockey mom, the un-ending drama between Jen vs. Angelina, aka "so not cool," our pres-elect and our economy.

# Santa gunman details emerge

**6 COVINA, Calif.** Bruce and Sylvia Pardo started the new year in 2006 with all signs pointing to a bright future—an upcoming marriage, a combined income of about \$150,000, a half-million-dollar home on a quiet cul-de-sac and a beloved dog, Saki.

But things quickly turned sour and divorce documents paint a bitter picture of Bruce Pardo's increasing desperation as he lost first his wife, then his job and finally the dog. By fall 2008, Pardo was asking a judge to have his ex-wife pay him support and cover his attorney's fees.

Pardo's downward slide ended Christmas Eve, when the 45-year-old electrical engineer donned a Santa suit and massacred nine people at his former in-laws' house, where a fam-



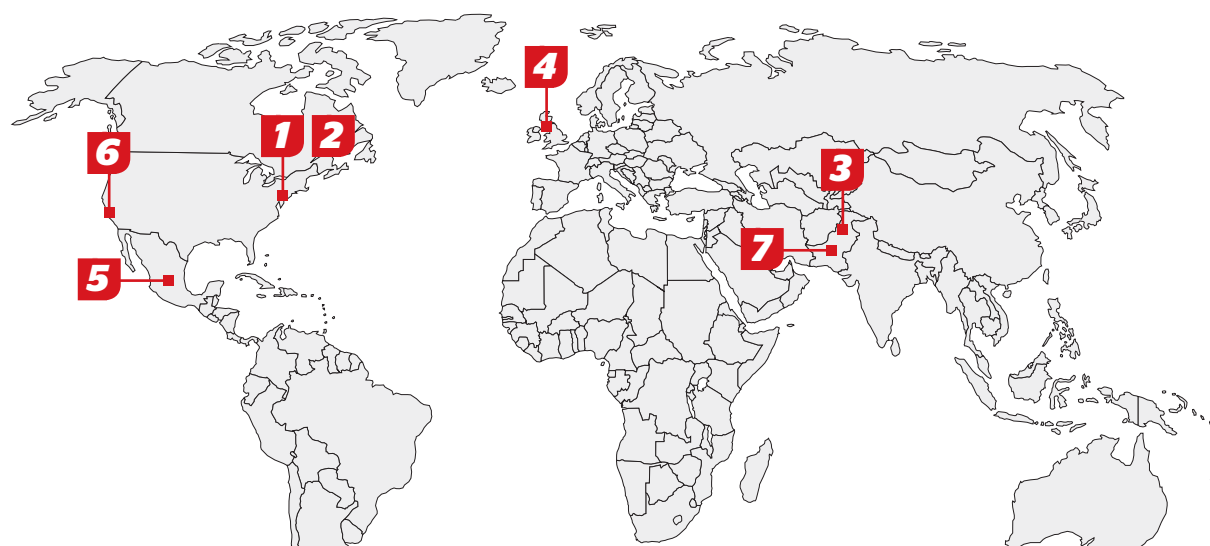
Bruce Pardo

ily Christmas party was under way. He then used a homemade device disguised as a present to spray racing

fuel that quickly sent the home up in flames.

Pardo had planned to flee to Canada following the killing spree but suffered third-degree burns in the fire—which melted part of the Santa suit to him—and decided to kill himself instead, investigators said. His body, with a bullet wound to the head, was found at his brother's home about 40 miles away.

The slaughter came six days after Pardo and his ex-wife appeared in court to finalize their divorce. Police believe the dead included Sylvia Pardo, 43, and her parents, Joseph Ortega, 80, and his 70-year-old wife, Alicia. Other suspected victims were Sylvia Pardo's two brothers and their wives, her sister and a 17-year-old nephew.



## One year later

**7 GARHI KHUDBAKHSH, Pakistan**  
Wailing and beating their chests, tens of thousands of people paid homage to Benazir Bhutto on Saturday on the one-year anniversary of her assassination—an event that dashed U.S. hopes the moderate Muslim politician would regain power and galvanize the campaign against Al Qaeda.



## 1 Fire dead mourned

Dozens of Liberian immigrants mourned this weekend at a house where seven members of their Southwest Philadelphia community died in a fire that a survivor said started when a kerosene heater spilled fuel and exploded as it was being moved outdoors.

## 2 Who's up there?

A family from Plains Township, Pa., didn't realize they'd had an unexpected Christmas guest until a man who had been in their attic for days emerged wearing their clothes, police said.

## Police deaths down

Fewer police officers died in the line of duty in 2008 compared with last year, reflecting better training and tactics, two law enforcement support groups reported Sunday.

## 3 Deadly bombing

A suicide bomber pretending to need help with his car killed 34 people in northwest Pakistan on Sunday while the target of another recent attack, the Marriott in Islamabad, partially reopened three months after a brazen truck bombing at the luxury hotel left 54 dead.

## 4 Abduction arrest

Police in Edinburgh, Scotland, said Sunday they arrested a 35-year-old man in connection with the abduction of a nurse who was found tied up in the trunk of her car—where she may have been held for as long as 10 days.

## 5 Queen loses crown

A Mexican beauty queen detained on suspicion of drug and weapons violations has been stripped of her crown in the Hispanoamerican Queen pageant, contest organizers in Mexico City said Saturday.



# sports



**MONDAY MOURNING | BY BAG BOY**

## Bears at best when teasing their fans

Typical Bears. Get us all fired up. Then let us down.

I should have seen this coming, right? The Bears haven't won four straight since, like, 1985 or something.

It's too bad. The Bears ruined a great season by rookie Matt Forte and a so-so season from quarterback Kyle Orton. Yes, a so-so season by a Bears QB is a highlight. When you expect the worst, mediocre works.

Where do we go from here? Like every media outlet in North America, it seems, I'll be in Wrigleyville soaking up the Winter Classic. And by soaking, I don't mean "rain."

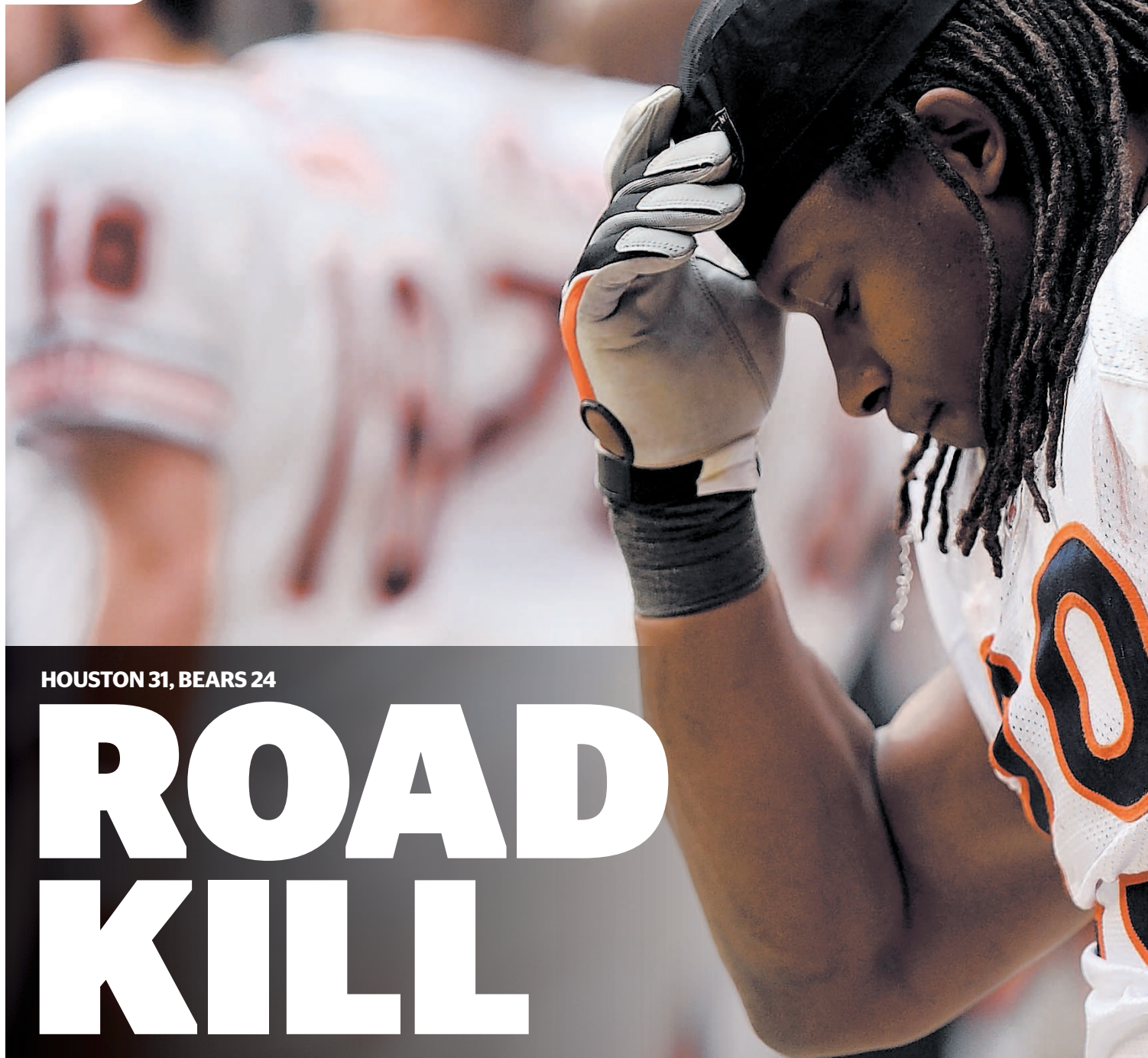
That would be typical Chicago, though. Rain on the coolest hockey "parade" this city has ever seen.

REDEYESPORTS@TRIBUNE.COM

**txtable**

## Canine Hotline

Bears fans, time to vent. What do you think about the Bears' collapse in Houston? Send Whizzer your thoughts via e-mail to [redeyesports@tribune.com](mailto:redeyesports@tribune.com) or just text "whiz" and your comment followed by your name to 47383.



HOUSTON 31, BEARS 24

# ROAD KILL

## HOUSTON STOMPS BEARS' OPPORTUNITY FOR PLAYOFF SPOT

### Associated Press

**HOUSTON** Faced with one last chance to make the playoffs, the Bears blew it.

Andre Johnson had two touchdowns and the Houston Texans got a 31-24 win over the Bears on Sunday to knock them out of the playoff picture.

The Bears (9-7) needed a win to keep any postseason hopes alive. The Vikings secured the NFC North title when they beat the Giants. Even so, the Bears still would have clinched wild-card spot with a victory because

Dallas and Tampa Bay both lost.

"Our team failed today," coach Lovie Smith said. "Overall our team didn't play well enough ... this year to accomplish our goals. It's kind of as simple as that."

Long out of the playoff picture themselves, the Texans were determined to win this one to finish with their second straight 8-8 record. They were desperate for a big finale after an embarrassing loss to Oakland last week.

"Our whole thing was to ruin their season," Houston's Mario Williams said.

The Bears entered the game still in playoff contention after two straight overtime wins. But on Sunday, they saw their 10-0 lead evaporate with 21 straight points by the Texans and never led again.

"That first drive of course was good, but it seemed like there was a lull in the middle of the game where we haven't been able to be as productive as we need to," Smith said.

Trailing by a touchdown, the Bears had a chance to get the ball back late in the fourth quarter when Steve Slaton fumbled and the





The Bears' Adrian Peterson reacts on the bench after a Texans touchdown Sunday in Houston. The Bears saw their 10-0 lead evaporate with 21 straight points by the Texans and never led again. GETTY IMAGES

## Dolphins complete stunning comeback

### Associated Press

From the ugliness of 1-15 to the beauty of an AFC East title. That's the Miami Dolphins' story this season.

The tale was nearly as good for the Atlanta Falcons, who went from 4-12 to an NFC wild-card berth. And for the NFC South-winning Carolina Panthers, who surged from 7-9 to 12-4.

Minnesota improved by two games to 10-6, and that was good enough for the NFC North crown.

While Miami, Carolina and Minnesota were clinching divisions Sunday, the Baltimore Ravens and Philadelphia Eagles were joining the Falcons as wild cards. Already in were the New York Giants and Arizona Cardinals in the NFC, the Tennessee Titans, Pittsburgh Steelers and Indianapolis Colts in the AFC.

Sunday night, San Diego beat Denver 52-21 to clinch the AFC West and conclude the schedule.

### WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS Saturday

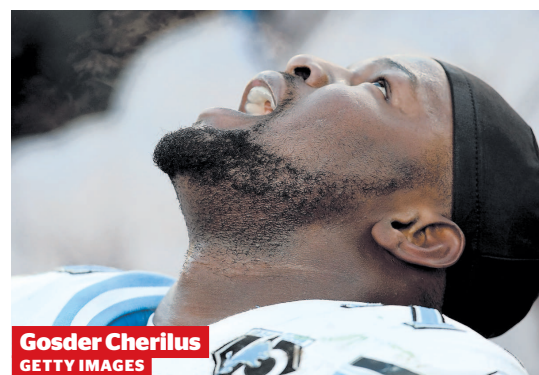
» Atlanta at Arizona  
3:30 p.m. NBC

» Indianapolis at San Diego  
7 p.m. NBC

### Sunday

» Baltimore at Miami  
Noon CBS

» Philadelphia at Minnesota  
3:30 p.m. FOX



Gosder Cherilus  
GETTY IMAGES

## Lions finish perfect 0-16

### Associated Press

**GREEN BAY** The silence in the Detroit Lions' locker room was so heavy it was practically suffocating.

No laughter, no postgame jokes, certainly no congratulations for a job well done. Just the occasional sound of luggage being zipped up at the close of a hideous season historic for all the wrong reasons.

"It's over now. We're 0-16," rookie running back Kevin Smith said. "I wish it was just a dream. I wish I could wake up and it'd be over. But it's not."

The Lions didn't even bother trying to put a brave face on this one. With a 31-21 loss to the Green Bay Packers on Sunday, Detroit solidified its claim as the worst team in NFL history. Sixteen games, 16 losses.

### Black and blues

**1** It's appropriate the Bears beat all odds to be in position to make the playoffs Sunday, then flopped when it counted. That's the Chicago way.

### Mr. Brightside

**2** If there is a silver lining for Bears fans, it is running back Matt Forte. Just stay away from boats, OK?

### Agony of de-feet

**3** Minnesota won the NFC North on a last-second field goal; the Bears lost a chance to tie Houston because of a bad onside kick. That just stinks.

### The breaks ...

**4** ... went the Bears' way late this year, but it wasn't meant to be. Chicago sports fans are meant to suffer.

### The Big Zero

**5** Ha, ha, ha, ha. Detroit Lions—0-16. Almost—almost—makes the Bears game tolerable.

### Bowl strut

**6** Good luck to Northwestern in Monday's Alamo Bowl. Although, a game called the Alamo is certainly a bad omen.

### Remember this Alamo

**7** When Northwestern played in the Alamo Bowl in 2000, the Wildcats were beaten 66-17. Happy New Year!

### Hello, Blackhawks

**8** Bears are done. Bulls are, well, the Bulls. The Blackhawks, on the other hand, are one of the NHL's best. Hockey is cool again. No pun intended.

### Dogs' days

**9** A movie about a dog is No. 1 at the box office. When's the last time a movie about a cat did that?



**canine lines**

**WHIZZER**  
redeyesports  
@tribune.com

### CAT CALL

Yes, my brethren the Detroit Lions are 0-16, but that doesn't top the day I lapped up spoiled milk for lunch. Hey, I'm not the one who is supposed to keep track of expiration dates. In any case, the Northwestern Wildcats—the mighty Wildcats—will restore order with a big win in the Alamo Bowl.







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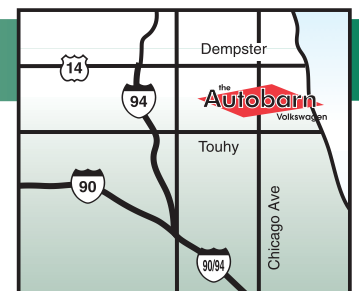
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# Bye, Bears

Catch Marc Silverman of the “Waddle & Silvy” show from 9 a.m. to noon weekdays on ESPN’s WMVP (1000-AM) and **espnradio1000.com**.



**LEO EBERSOLE**  
[lebersole@tribune.com](mailto:lebersole@tribune.com)



**ELLIOTT SERRANO**  
[redeyesports@tribune.com](mailto:redeyesports@tribune.com)



**BRIAN MOORE**  
[brmoore@tribune.com](mailto:brmoore@tribune.com)



**MARC SILVERMAN**  
[redeyesports@tribune.com](mailto:redeyesports@tribune.com)



**WHIZKERS**  
[redeyesports@tribune.com](mailto:redeyesports@tribune.com)

**1** How do you feel after that Bears game?

Having avoided sidewalk slush canals and rain all weekend, I'd say it was an appropriate capper.

Like Lovie Claus left a lump of coal in my Christmas stocking. I was good—honest!

Is numb a feeling?

I'm OK if they follow Blago's lead and keep playing despite everyone saying it's over. Fifth quarter!

I think I speak for the whole feline world when I say I've had more fun coughing up hairballs.

**2** What do the Bears need to take the next step next season?

A No. 1 receiver, a No. 2 receiver, a No. 3 receiver and Brandon Lloyd for insurance.

Develop another play for Devin Hester other than the Hail Mary for Pass Interference Calls.

Did you see Andre Johnson on Sunday? Or Calvin Johnson? Any Johnson who can score will do.

GM, coach, QB, WR, O-line, D-line and safety. Super Bears, Super Bowl!

A good dose of catnip usually helps me deal with anything.

**3** Who's a bigger loser than the O-16 Detroit Lions?

I spent Saturday night watching the Emerald Bowl and playing Medal of Honor, so, no comment.

Detroit Lions season-ticket holders. They pay for them, right? Suckers.

The maker of all those “Detroit 1-15!” T-shirts.

Fans who bought “Fukudome is my homey” T-shirts. Oh, I bought one of those? Never mind.

Whizzer. He predicted the Bears would go 8-8 and miss the playoffs. Fail!

**4** The Winter Classic has been hyped more than ...

... Tony Romo. At least the Winter Classic might deliver.

... the incoming presidential administration. If only Obama could play center for the Hawks.

... the Cubs when they are playing at Wrigley.

The Winter Classic? When and where is that?

... the new season of “American Idol.” Although I love the “AI” catfighting.

**5** Wind, cold and snow are forecast for the Winter Classic. How would that affect the game?

Fighters will be barred from any nipple-tweaking.

Beer sales may drop. Wait, it's at Wrigley Field? Scratch that.

My plan to sell beersicles is on.

What's next? Sun, heat and humidity for the Summer Classic? Deal with it.

The bleacher bums will build snowmen, then try to call them on their cell phones.

## MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY

**Handicapped Access** ♦ **Digital Sound**  
 **Dolby Stereo** ★ **No Passes** **Hearing - Impaired**

**G** - General audience **PG** - Parental guidance suggested  
**PG-13** - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13  
**R** - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian  
**NC-17** - No one 17 and under admitted

### 600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago  
(312) 255-9340  
Show times change daily

#### AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 11:40, 3:20, 7:00, 10:40
- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) 11:30, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) 10:40, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
- **Marley & Me** (PG) 10:30, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 5:40, 7:50, 10:50
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 11:50, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:45
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 12:15, 3:00, 8:30, 11:05
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:00, 6:30, 8:45
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 10:50, 11:00
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 11:15, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00

### LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago  
(773) 509-4949

- **The Reader** (R) 12:00, 3:15, 6:45, 9:50
- **Milk** (R) 1:30, 3:05, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:20
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 11:00, 11:45, 1:45, 3:00, 4:40, 6:15, 7:45, 9:20, 10:30
- **Doubt** (PG-13) 11:05, 12:10, 1:55, 4:45, 6:30, 7:35, 10:10
- **Let the Right** (R) 11:10, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25

### CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

2600 N. Western Ave.  
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **The Spirit** (PG-13) ★ 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) ★ 2:00, 6:10, 10:00
- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) ★ 12:01, 5:02, 4:20, 5:30, 7:10, 7:50, 9:45, 10:15
- **Marley & Me** (PG) ★ 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:30
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) ★ 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
- **Tale of Desp** (G) ★ 12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:05, 5:20, 6:30
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 1:20, 2:40, 3:40, 5:10, 7:30, 8:10, 10:40, 11:00
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 10:10
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) 6:05, 8:40
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 1:00, 3:30
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 9:00
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) 1:10, 3:45
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 6:20, 8:50
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 12:10

### DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago  
(773) 784-0893

- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) ★ 11:50, 3:10, 6:30, 9:45
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) ★ 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) ★ 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

### FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago  
(773) 582-1839  
Show times change daily

#### AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 2:50, 6:10, 9:30
- **The Spirit** (PG-13) 1:55, 4:30, 6:15, 7:10, 9:00, 9:50
- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) 12:10, 1:30, 2:30, 4:10, 5:10, 6:45, 7:45, 9:20, 10:00
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 9:55
- **Marley & Me** (PG) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
- **Tale of Desp** (G) 1:10, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:50
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) 12:30, 1:40, 3:20, 4:15, 6:05, 7:00, 8:55, 9:45
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:40, 4:05, 5:15, 7:40, 9:10, 10:00
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:40
- **AMC Select Nothing Like** (PG-13) 1:25, 6:20
- **AMC Select Cadillac Rec** (R) 3:40, 8:50
- **Bolt** (PG) 1:50, 4:00
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 1:35, 6:30

### GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street  
312-846-2800

- **The Wild Child** (G) 6:00
- **Monks** (NR) 6:00, 8:00
- **Septembers** (NR) 7:45

### LINCOLN VILLAGE THEATRE

6341 N. McCormick at Devon Chicago  
312-642-2403

#### Call theatre for show information

### LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago  
(773) 252-0628

- **Twilight** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:20
- **Bolt** (PG) 2:10, 4:15, 6:25, 8:30
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 2:00, 4:05, 6:05, 8:10

### MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago  
(773) 871-6604

- **West Side Story** (NR) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
- **Christmas Tale** (NR) 2:30, 5:30, 8:30

### PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago  
(312) 642-7500  
Show times change daily

#### AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Ghajini** (NR) 2:40, 6:30
- **Rab Ne Bana** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
- **AMC Select Vicky Cristina** (PG-13) 4:50 P.M.
- **Australia** (PG-13) 1:25, 7:05
- **AMC Select Happy-Go-Lucky** (R) 3:15 P.M.
- **AMC Select Rachel Getting** (R) 2:15, 5:00, 7:40

### RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street  
847-765-7262  
Show times change daily

- **AMC Select The Reader** (R) 10:25, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:35
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 11:15, 3:05, 7:00, 10:40 ;
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 12:10, 4:05, 8:00
- **The Spirit** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:25
- **Bedtime Stories** (PG-13) 10:00, 11:00, 12:40, 1:45, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:15, 8:30
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) 10:45, 2:00, 5:00, 8:15
- **Marley & Me** (PG) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30
- **AMC Select Frost/Nixon** (R) 11:35, 2:35, 5:35, 8:35
- **AMC Select Gran Torino** (R) 10:55, 1:50, 3:00, 4:45, 5:45, 7:40, 8:40, 10:35
- **AMC Select Doubt** (PG-13) 11:05, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
- **Tale of Desp** (G) 10:05, 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) 11:10, 1:15, 2:15, 4:15, 5:15, 7:20, 8:20, 10:30
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 10:10, 12:50, 3:30, 6:00, 8:50, 10:40
- **AMC Select Slumdog Mill** (R) 11:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10
- **AMC Select The Wrestler** (R) 10:45, 12:45, 1:45, 3:40, 4:45, 7:45, 8:45, 10:45
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:35, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
- **AMC Select Milk** (R) 10:05, 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
- **AMC Select Nothing Like** (PG-13) 10:50 A.M.
- **AMC Select Cadillac Rec** (R) 9:50 P.M.
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 10:15, 6:15
- **Bolt** (PG) 10:10, 12:30

### CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie  
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **The Spirit** (PG-13) ★ 1:50, 2:30, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) ★ 12:10, 2:20, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 9:55
- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) ★ 12:00, 1:20, 2:40, 3:50, 5:10, 6:40, 7:40, 9:10
- **Doubt** (PG-13) ★ 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:20
- **Marley & Me** (PG) ★ 12:40, 3:40, 6:50, 9:40
- **Gran Torino** (R) ★ 1:10, 1:50, 4:00, 4:40, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:35
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) ★ 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
- **Tale of Desp** (G) ★ 1:30, 1:00, 2:00, 4:15, 5:00, 7:45
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 7:20, 9:30, 10:15
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 8:00, 10:30
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) 10:10
- **Frost/Nixon** (R) 12:30, 3:20, 6:20, 9:15
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8:20, 10:45
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 10:05
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) 11:40
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 12:15, 3:00, 6:15, 9:00

### WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago  
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) ★ 12:45, 2:30, 4:20, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50
- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) ★ 2:00, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
- **Gran Torino** (R) ★ 1:00, 2:10, 3:45, 5:00, 6:30, 7:45, 9:15, 10:30
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) ★ 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:40
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 12:30, 1:20, 3:30, 4:15, 6:20, 7:30, 9:20, 10:20
- **Frost/Nixon** (R) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 2:20, 4:40, 6:50, 9:10

### SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.  
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **The Spirit** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 2:20, 6:05, 9:40
- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) 12:45, 2:00, 3:30, 4:45, 6:10, 7:20, 8:40, 9:45
- **Marley & Me** (PG) 1:00, 3:40, 6:40, 9:20
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:00
- **Tale of Desp** (G) 2:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:10
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) 12:50, 1:40, 4:00, 4:30, 6:50, 7:30, 9:55, 10:30
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:20
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:20, 6:45, 9:15
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 6:20, 9:00
- **Bolt** (PG) 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 8:50
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 12:40, 3:20

### CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)

4779 W. Cermak  
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **The Spirit** (PG-13) ★ 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) ★ 2:20, 6:05, 7:00, 9:40, 10:30
- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) ★ 12:10, 1:10, 2:30, 3:50, 4:50, 6:30, 7:20, 8:50, 9:50
- **Marley & Me** (PG) ★ 1:00, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) ★ 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15
- **Tale of Desp** (G) ★ 12:40, 2:10, 3:20, 4:40, 6:20, 9:00
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:20
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 12:50, 1:40, 4:00, 4:30, 6:50, 7:30, 9:45, 10:40
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:10, 9:10
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) 6:45, 9:20
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 5:00, 7:50, 10:10
- **Bolt** (PG) 12:20, 2:40
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 1:50, 4:20

### OAK PARK

#### LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street  
630-444-FILM #560

- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 11:45, 3:05, 6:30, 9:50
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45
- **Milk** (R) 1:25, 4:10, 7:15, 10:00

### EVANSTON

#### CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 MAPLE AVE.  
(847)492-0123

- **Bedtime Stories** (PG) ★ 11:40, 2:05, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
- **Frost/Nixon** (R) ★ 12:50, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15
- **Marley & Me** (PG) ★ 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) ★ 11:25, 1:10, 3:00, 4:45, 6:35, 8:30, 10:10
- **The Reader** (R) ★ 12:30, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
- **The Spirit** (PG-13) ★ 11:55, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
- **The Wrestler** (R) ★ 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25
- **Valkyrie** (PG-13) ★ 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05
- **Doubt** (PG-13) ★ 11:30, 2:05, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 11:50, 5:15, 10:30
- **Milk** (R) 12:00, 3:50, 7:10, 10:20
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 12:15
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 1:40, 3:10, 4:30, 6:05, 7:35, 9:00, 10:25
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:05, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 11:35, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
- **Tale of Desp** (G) ★ 11:45, 2:15, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 1:00, 2:40, 3



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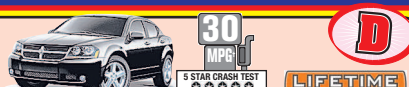
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Chicago's Dustin Byfuglien (33) fights for the puck prior to the first of his two goals. **STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE**

## BLACKHAWKS 4, MINNESOTA 1

# Nine and dandy

## Hawks extend streak; showdown with Detroit next

**ST. PAUL** Dustin Byfuglien led the Blackhawks to their franchise-record ninth straight victory, scoring two goals and adding an assist in a 4-1 win over the Minnesota Wild on Sunday night.

The Blackhawks broke the team record of eight straight victories set in December 1971 and matched in January 1981. With the nine-game streak, the Blackhawks also tied San Jose for the longest run of the season.

Martin Havlat and Kris Versteeg also scored, and Cristobal Huet made 18 saves, allowing only Cal Clutterbuck's third-period goal.

The Blackhawks trail Detroit by four points in the Central Division with two games in hand. They will play Tuesday night in Detroit and Thursday in Chicago in the Winter Classic at Wrigley Field.

For the second straight game, the Blackhawks charged to an early two-goal lead.

### BLACKHAWKS HITS

Dustin Byfuglien hadn't scored in five games since a two-goal performance Dec. 12 against Colorado.

» The Blackhawks are 9-1-0 against the Northwest Division. Its lone loss was Oct. 27 in Minnesota.

Byfuglien scored off a scramble 7 minutes in, then tipped Duncan Keith's slap shot past Niklas Backstrom for a power-play goal 2½ minutes later.

As smooth as Chicago was offensively with its skating and tape-to-tape passes, its defense continued to be equally adept. The Blackhawks have allowed an average of 1.33 goals in the winning streak.



**Bacher**

### Did you see the 9-3 season coming?

Yeah. Our goal this whole season was to focus on the moment and get better at what we could get better at at that time. We took things one game at a time. It's real cliché. A lot of people say that, but we really embodied it, and we really did it this season.

## 1 minute with Wildcats QB C.J. Bacher

RedEye caught up with Northwestern quarterback C.J. Bacher recently and asked him about the Wildcats' successful season and his future.

That's why we're in the situation we're in now. We went into every game knowing we could win and focused on ourselves. It panned out all right for us.

### What are you going to miss about playing football at Northwestern?

So many things. The brotherhood, with the coaches and my teammates. ... My teammates have been with me the past four or five years. They really embody what Northwestern football is all about, and that's being character people who play football and really go at it their hardest in every facet of life.



### watch dog

**WHIZZER**  
redeyesports  
@tribune.com

Starting Monday, we get the BOWL games. Northwestern hasn't played in a bowl since 2005, but the Wildcats are going bowling tonight. I'll swallow my dislike for felines and cheer for the 'Cats. Just this one time.

### NBA



### BULLS AT NEW JERSEY

6:30 p.m. CSN  
I've been told New Jersey stinks. The state, that is.

### PAPAJOHNS.COM BOWL



### N.C. STATE VS. RUTGERS

2 p.m. ESPN  
Mmmm, pizza—and a bowl game. I've died and gone to heaven.

### ALAMO BOWL



### MISSOURI VS. NORTHWESTERN

7 p.m. ESPN  
Will we remember the Alamo?

### HOMETOWN HITS



### INDEPENDENCE BOWL

The Northern Illinois vs. Louisiana Tech game did not end before press time.

### SUNDAY'S RESULTS

- » Illinois 62, E. Michigan 53
- » DePaul 90, Alcorn St. 67
- » Bradley 79, S. Illinois 63
- » Illinois St. 72, Missouri St. 69
- » SIU-Edwardsville 77, UMKC 71
- » Bowling Green 78, E. Illinois 60

## txtable

## Best, worst of '08

We want you to help pick the highs and lows in Chicago sports this past year. Here's the ballot.

### BEST TEAM

1. Bears   2. Blackhawks   3. Cubs
4. Fire   5. White Sox   6. Wolves

Text **"team"** and the number of your choice to **47383**.

### BIGGEST LETDOWN

1. Cubs swept in playoffs
2. Devin Hester
3. Joakim Noah
4. Rush shuts down for 2009
5. White Sox lose in first round

Text **"ouch"** and the number of your choice to **47383**.



**Hester**

### BEST MOMENT

1. Bulls get Derrick Rose
2. Cubs clinch division for 2nd straight year
3. Fire gets Chicago-area native Brian McBride
4. Northwestern makes first bowl game since 2005
5. White Sox win playoff play-in game

Text **"best"** and the number of your choice to **47383**.



**Rose**

### BEST COMEBACK

1. Bears running game
2. Blackhawks
3. Ryan Dempster
4. Kyle Orton
5. Kerry Wood

Text **"come"** and the number of your choice to **47383**.



**Wood**



THE COUNT-  
DOWN IS ON

# 09

NEW YEAR'S EVE  
PARTY



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# The party's on us



## Need New Year's plans? We're giving them away

**m**ew Year's Eve is 48 hours away. Where are your plans? Whether you procrastinated on buying tickets or are just too broke to party, Metromix is prepared to save your social life on the biggest party night of the year.

We're giving away tickets to more than 25 bashes, and all you have to do is get on the phone and call (and be 21 or over). Log on to **metromix.com** for a complete list of parties, plus the phone number you'll need to dial. Be sure to have your top three party picks ready when we answer.

Phone lines will be cleared at 10 a.m., then we'll start giving away tickets to the lucky callers who can get through. Be prepared to redial your heart out—tickets go fast.



**10pin**  
FILE FOR METROMIX

### **ROCK & BOWL**

#### **Bowl in the New Year at 10pin Bowling Lounge**

One pair of tickets includes bowling, premium open bar, signature martinis, appetizer buffet and champagne toast. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

#### **New Year's Rock 'n' Roll Ball**

One pair of tickets includes general admission for a live performance of the Lovehammers, Dot Dot Dot and Bumpus, plus stand-up from Chicago Underground Comedy. 8 p.m.-2 a.m.



**Rockit**  
FILE FOR METROMIX

### **SWANKY SOIREES**

#### **BIN 36 New Year's Eve**

One pair of tickets includes an open bar, buffet dinner with wine pairings, favors, champagne toast and a take-home bag of mini-doughnuts and coffee. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

#### **To the 9's at Climax**

One pair of tickets includes a premium open bar, light buffet, favors and champagne toast. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

#### **NYE 2009: A Night to Remember at Crimson Lounge/Hotel Sax**

One pair of tickets includes a top-shelf open bar, appetizers, buffet dinner and champagne toast in Crimson and the hotel's ballroom. Also includes a one-night stay for two in the Hotel Sax and in-room breakfast service. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

#### **New Year's Eve at C-View**

One pair of tickets includes a premium open bar, canapes from C-House, party favors and champagne toast. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

#### **NYE09 HUB 51**

One pair of tickets for this black-tie bash includes a premium open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres and champagne toast. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

#### **Light Up the New Year at Lumen**

Two pairs of tickets include a premium open bar, small bites, favors and champagne toast. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

#### **New Year's Eve at Martini Park**

One pair of tickets includes cocktails and passed appetizers. 9 p.m.-midnight

#### **Rock in the New Year 2009 at Rockit**

One pair of tickets includes a premium open bar, buffet, favors and champagne toast. 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

#### **NYE 2009 at Sound-Bar**

Two pairs of tickets include a premium open bar, buffet, favors and champagne toast. 8 p.m.-midnight

#### **New Year's Eve at Stone Lotus**

One pair of tickets includes a premium open bar, passed appetizers, favors and champagne toast. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

#### **New Year's Eve 2009 at The Underground**

One pair of tickets includes a premium open bar, buffet, favors and champagne toast. 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

**LOG ON TO METROMIX.COM FOR EVEN MORE PARTIES INCLUDED IN THIS GIVEAWAY, PLUS THE PHONE NUMBER YOU'LL NEED TO CALL AT 10 A.M.**

### **'HOOD HANGS**

#### **Celtic Crown**

One pair of tickets includes a call open bar, favors and champagne toast. 7 p.m.-2 a.m.

#### **New Year's Eve at Cortland's Garage**

One pair of tickets includes a top-shelf open bar, appetizers, favors and champagne toast. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

#### **Harry Caray's New Year's Eve on Ice**

One pair of tickets includes a call open bar, signature cocktails, appetizer buffet, favors and champagne toast. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

#### **New Year's Eve at Lincoln Station**

Two pairs of tickets include a premium open bar, shots, appetizer buffet, favors and champagne toast. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

#### **NYE09: A Party to Remember at Minibar | Winebar**

Two pairs of tickets include a cash bar, champagne toast and party favors. 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

#### **Anti-Black Tie Party at Piece**

One pair of tickets includes all-you-can-eat pizza, salad and dessert; Piece drafts, Miller Lite, soft drinks and wine, plus a champagne toast. 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Check-in begins at 8:15 p.m.

#### **New Year's Eve at Uncle Fatty's**

One pair of tickets includes a premium open bar, buffet, favors and champagne toast. 8 p.m.-2 a.m.





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The Harlem  
Globetrotters stop  
by at noon. 10 a.m.

mon  
29

### Bon voyage

Bailiwick Repertory Arts Center, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. 773-883-1090.

Say goodbye to Bailiwick Repertory's 15-year residence in Lakeview at **Farewell to 1229**. (Theater Wit will move in; Bailiwick will produce shows locally in '09 at the Center on Halsted and a few other locations.) See musical performances from nine past productions, including "Jerry Springer-The Opera" and "Kiss of the Spider Woman." Includes a pre-show reception with appetizers and cash bar, plus behind-the-scenes stories after the show at **Joey's Brickhouse** (1258 W. Belmont Ave.). 6 p.m. \$25-\$75.

### Fright night

F. O'Mahony's, 3701 N. Broadway. 773-549-0226.

Got a nose-hair trimmer or Chia Pet under your tree? Wrap it back up and head to the **Horrible Gift Exchange**, where \$5 Absolut martinis, \$4 Irish beer drafts and \$5 pizzas help ease your pain, even if you swap for something worse. 7 p.m. No cover.

tue  
30

### Have some Hart

Zanies Comedy Night Club, 1548 N. Wells St. 312-337-4027.

The renowned comedy club celebrates its 30th anniversary in Chicago with a special stand-up show starring **Kevin Hart**, the film and TV actor best known as the creator and star of ABC-TV's "The Big House" and as Nashawn in the film "Soul Plane." 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. \$25 plus a two-item food or beverage minimum.

wed  
31

### Puck it up

Murphy's Bleachers, 3655 N. Sheffield Ave. 312-755-3522.

Hockey fans get one last "shot" to win rooftop tickets to the sold-out 2009 NHL Winter Classic on New Year's Day in Wrigley Field at the **"Jager on Ice" Shoot the Puck Tournament**. Compete in sports and bar trivia games for a chance to shoot a puck into a goal at the bar. Not a trivia whiz? Enter the spectator raffle for Blackhawk-signed hockey sticks, Jagermeister gear and more. 1 p.m. No cover.

thu  
1

### Take the plunge

North Avenue Beach, 1600 N. Lake Shore Drive.

Ring in the New Year with a splash at the **Polar Bear Club New Year's Day Swim**. Meet near the boathouse for a group disrobing and photo session (wear a swimsuit, please), then run into the lake as a group. No nudity or wetsuits allowed; no on-site medical support is available, and you're only "official" if you go completely underwater. Spectators welcome. Noon. Free. Contact: [leesaruns@aol.com](mailto:leesaruns@aol.com)

HOW TO REACH US | FOR ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION 24/7, GO TO **METROMIX.COM**.

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For questions, comments and story ideas, contact Matt McGuire, editor, at [mmcguire@tribune.com](mailto:mmcguire@tribune.com)

To submit event information for Metromix or **metromix.com**, go to [metromix.com/listings](http://metromix.com/listings).





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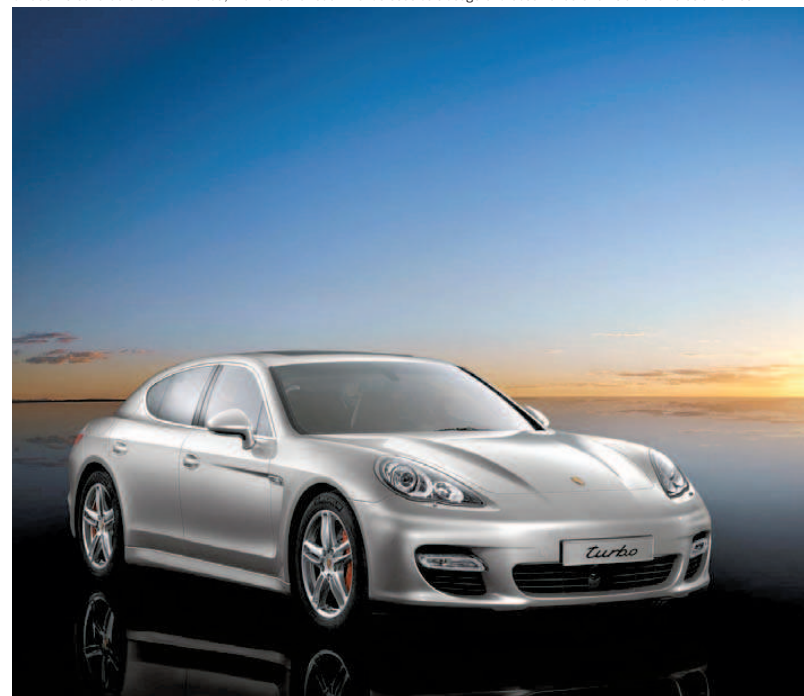
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9 p.m. \$8. Blue Chicago at Superior, 736 N. Clark St. 312-642-6261.

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8:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Rd. 312-791-9050.

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**JULIANI ENSEMBLE**  
12:15 p.m. Free. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. 312-744-6630.

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**LINSEY ALEXANDER**  
9:30 p.m. \$7. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

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8:30 p.m. Free. Bill's Blues Bar, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. 847-424-9800.

**MONDAY NIGHT LIVE**  
7:30 p.m. No cover; \$15 dining purchase required. Patterino's, 150 N. Dearborn St. 312-422-0150.

**THE MUDFLAPPS**  
8 p.m. Free. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. 847-864-1679.

**PATRICIA BARBER QUARTET**  
9 p.m. \$7. Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

**RAISE HIGH THE ROOF BEAM, SOFT SPEAKER, THE BLACK FORTYS**  
9 p.m. Free. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

**SUSAN VOELZ, INGRID GRAUDINS**  
8 p.m. Free. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

**U-MELT, DJ WYLLYS**  
10 p.m. \$10. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

**UMPHREY'S MCGEE**  
8 p.m. \$30-\$35. Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy. 312-559-1212.

**YOKO NOGE'S JAZZ ME BLUES BAND**  
9 p.m. \$10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

**Jazmine Sullivan turns her insecurities into a hit debut album**

**Jazmine Sullivan**  
AP FILE



## The Philadelphia Inquirer

Jazmine Sullivan has always been ahead of schedule.

"I came out of the womb singing," the 21-year-old rising star said recently.

Sullivan currently has two hits from her debut album, "Fearless," on the Top 10 Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop song chart—her breakout single, "Need U Bad," and revenge song

of the year "Bust Your Windows." It's earned her five Grammy nominations.

She was only slightly exaggerating about her ultra-early musical entrance. Sullivan's husky,

attention-demanding voice first started eliciting shouts of "Sing it, girl!" when she was a soloist in the children's choir at St. Andrew's Fellowship Baptist Church in Philadelphia. By the time she was 11, Sullivan was wowing host Steve Harvey, singing "Accept What God Allows" on "Showtime at the Apollo." But her oversized voice made her self-conscious.

"I had insecurities," she said. "Everybody wants to have a really high, pretty voice and I had the opposite of that. People always asked me, 'What's it like to have a grown-up voice trapped inside a kid's body?' But then I realized as I got older that it was my low and raspy voice that drew people to me."

People like Stevie Wonder, whom Sullivan sang for at his grandson's birthday party when she was 13.

"I was so young," she said. "I didn't really understand the magnitude of what was going on."

She missed her first week at the High School for the Creative and Performing Arts in South Philadelphia because she was in London touring. And when she was a sophomore, she landed a record deal with Jive Records.

Sullivan recorded "hundreds" of songs while she was signed to the label, most of them tentative collaborations with other writers. But when she was 18, and set to embark on her full-time career after graduation, the label dropped her.

"That was a big blow," she said. "I was angry. Everybody was going off to school, and I had already decided I wasn't going to college because singing was going to be my career."

Looking back, though, she understands why it didn't work out.

"They didn't know what to do with me," she said. "I was young and I didn't know what to do with my own self. I didn't know who I was, so I couldn't take control of my career and tell them what I wanted to do."

The solution for that was "to start writing my own songs, so I could make an album that reflects who I am." Those songs, and a performance for legendary exec Clive Davis last year, earned her a new deal with J Records.

Which led to "Fearless." Despite the album's title, two songs, "Lions, Tigers and Bears" and "Fear," are, in fact, about the things that Sullivan is afraid of, which include love, gaining weight, fame and failure.

"I think it's fearless to express that you have fears," she said. "I think a lot of people don't want to be that real or open with their audience, but I want to come straight out with it."



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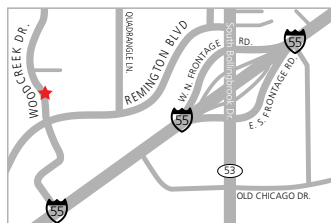
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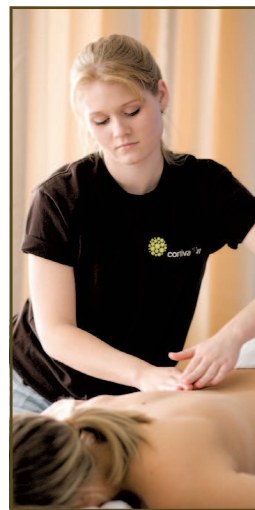
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STYLISH CASUAL?

### What the heck is stylish casual?

Once upon a time dress codes were divided into formal, semi-formal and informal. Now you'll see everything from country club casual to stylish casual on invitations. It can leave you stuck deciphering what's actually appropriate. "We've really gotten ourselves confused about what the different terms for dress mean," said business etiquette expert Lydia Ramsey, author of "Manners That Sell." "If it's not clear, if they mix the terms, it's best to call. For men it's easier to ask the question, 'Do I need to wear a coat and tie?' For women it's harder, but it's always better when in doubt to dress up a notch."

# NEW YEAR'S EVE SURVIVAL GUIDE

Your New Year's parties will be a hit—if you follow these tips

**By Samantha Nelson**  
FOR REDEYE

Parties are supposed to be fun, right?

The fact is, holiday celebrations sometimes can feel like a social test rather than a chance to actually kick back. With events hosted by friends and co-workers often teeming with people you don't know well—or at all—how can you put your best foot forward and score points instead of looking like a goon?

For starters, you can check out this party survival guide. RedEye compiled the guide after speaking with etiquette, relationship and party planning experts to get the tips you need to survive the holiday party season—just in time for New Year's Eve. **SAMANTHA NELSON IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**

SEND REGRETS

### What if I receive multiple invitations for the same night?

Honesty is the best policy for popular party people, according to Barbie Adler, president of Selective Search, a Chicago-based matchmaking service. Just make sure to send your regrets as soon as possible so they don't plan on your attendance.

"This will not only demonstrate that you have class, it will also keep you on their future invite list," she said. "With so many parties at this time of year, people understand that you can't make it to all of them. However, if you do R.S.V.P., you really need to at least try and stop by."





## What are appropriate gifts for a holiday party?

Unless the invitation states otherwise, the only gift you need to bring is a little something for your host, Ramsey said. But you are expected to bring them something no matter where the party takes place.

"Someone organized this and is paying for this, so even if it's not in their home the same rules do apply," she said.

There's not too much of a financial requirement to your giving. JoAnne Winkler, sales director for party planning directory **chicago fun.com**, recommends a bottle of wine or some other token, and Adler notes to be sure to label your gift so the host will know it came from you when they get around to opening things after the party.

## SMALL TOKEN



## FAKE IT

## What if you're asked to bring a dish but can't cook?

Potlucks aren't just problematic for the cooking impaired. Between catching up on work before time off, balancing your budget to make sure you have enough shopping cash and picking out the right gifts for everyone on your list, who has time to spend in the kitchen? Luckily there are solutions.

"Two words: Whole Foods!" Adler said. "You can pick up something already prepared and transfer it to your own serving dish and nobody will ever know. Fox & Obel (401 E. Illinois St.) or The Goddess and Grocer (25 E. Delaware Pl., 1646 N. Damen Ave.) are other great spots for pre-made food that people will think you whipped up in your own kitchen."

## BE ON TIME

### How late is 'fashionably late'?

Contrary to the old saying, it is not actually fashionable to be late, Ramsey said. But it's also not fashionable to be too early.

"It's better to arrive on time because you get to see everyone who is there and you're not playing catch-up," she said. "If you're late, the party is in full swing and you'll be interrupting those who have already established their groups and conversations."

Adler notes that the type of party and the host can have a major impact on when you want to be there. If it's a dinner party, make sure to be on time. If it's a cocktail party, you have a little more leeway. If it's hosted by a close friend, you might want to get there at the start to help out with welcoming guests, bartending or whatever else needs to be done.



## ASK QUESTIONS

### Help! I don't know anyone. What do I talk about?

It's always a gamble what topics a stranger will find interesting, but Winkler says there's one thing everyone wants to discuss.

"People love to talk about themselves," she said. "Asking people questions about themselves is the best way to get to know anybody and to start a conversation."

Winkler also advised repeating someone's name back to them during your first conversations so you won't realize after 10 minutes you don't remember who it is you're talking to. Another tactic to keep you from clinging to corners is to make a game out of introductions—and maybe even look to score a hookup, Adler said.

"Make a pact with your closest single girlfriend: 'I'm going to find your guy, and you're going to find mine.' Stop a cute guy and say, 'I know this is weird, but I have to stop you. You are so my best friend's type.' Now you'll have a guy's attention to screen for your friend or yourself."

## A last-minute New Year's Eve shopping guide

Your New Year's Eve plans may already be set, but you probably don't have everything you need to make your night out or night in the best that it can be. Here are some last-minute tech and novelty shopping ideas that could spice up the last night of 2008.

RYAN SMITH, FOR REDEYE

### Fred Beer Bands

\$7.50 for a set of 12 at *He Who Eats Mud*, 3247 N. Broadway.

Dude, where's my beer? With so many people at your party, it might be tough to tell if that PBR sitting on the bar belongs to you or the guy next to you. That's why these beer bands are so helpful, you can actually color-code your bottles. Now you can say with authority "Hands off my green!" whenever someone tries to steal your brew.



### Das Charleston (Disco) Ball

\$25.95 at *American Science and Surplus*, 5316 N. Milwaukee Ave. #E

This German mirror ball—apparently the Germans first used them in the 1920s—is great for lighting your New Year's Eve dance floor. It's 7 3/4 inches in diameter, covered with plastic mirrors and has a motor to keep it turning. Just hang it, plug it in and party like it's 1929—1979—no, 2009.



### Flip Video MinoHD Camcorder

\$209 at *Best Buy*, *Circuit City*, *Target* and other retail outlets

Roughly the same size as an iPod, this digital video recorder doesn't sacrifice quality. It can record up to 60 minutes of HD video, making this a perfect gadget to toss into your pocket or purse and easily pull out to capture your best New Year's eve party moments. **RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**





# Next Port of call: 'The City'

## Associated Press

While Lauren Conrad has opened the door to her life on MTV's "The Hills," Whitney Port has dug a moat and pulled up the bridge. Fans haven't seen much of Port, who says she's guarded by design.

That's all about to change with "The City," her new spin-off series from the popular reality show. Cameras follow Port as she moves from L.A. to New York to work for Diane von Furstenberg.

"The City" premieres at 9 p.m. Monday on MTV. Port recently talked about her new show and fame.

## Why didn't you allow viewers to see much of your life on "The Hills"?

At the beginning, it was a conscious effort of mine. I was kind of uncomfortable. I just wanted to focus on my career. But on "The

City," you're going to get a glimpse into my personal life. There will be a lot of fun behind closed doors.

## Was it hard to decide to do your own show?

It was a very hard decision. I let it marinate for a couple months and everyone allowed me to do that, and in the end, the pros definitely outweighed the cons.

## Are you surprised by the popularity of "The Hills"?

It's so surprising to me. Obviously, when I went into it, I had no idea. I think it's basically a guilty pleasure for everyone.

## You don't seem to be a dramatic person.

## Will there be drama on "The City"?

There is some drama because what would reality TV be without drama? Hopefully, I'm



**Whitney Port says she took a couple of months before agreeing to film her own show.**  
AP FILE

not the one producing it. I'm not the kind of person who goes out looking for it or causing it, but there are people that come into your life that inevitably cause it. I'm just there to handle it and take it all day by day.

## What does your family think of your fame?

My two younger sisters are in college, so they're in the midst of the fans, so it can get

strange for them, but everyone's handling it fine. We try to not make all the focus and attention on me.

## Can we expect to see Lauren Conrad on "The City"?

I would love it. I would love to have her on. I don't know that they've planned for that yet.

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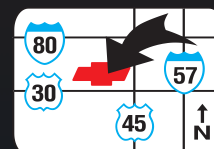
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Pluto is reminding you that it's time to let go of anything that isn't working in your personal life. Maybe you should ditch a so-called friend who only drags you down. Stop feeling responsible for everybody else. If he or she is a grown-up, you don't need to be the parent.

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**Aquarius**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Mercury is moving into your sign for a few weeks, increasing your need to socialize. You could schedule an impromptu trip to see a former flame. Or you might arrange a big party for a group of friends and colleagues. Have fun.



**Pisces**

Feb. 19-March 20

A sensitive moon could put you in a sentimental mood as you're bringing in the new year. You'll be thinking of all those dramatic moments you experienced with your honey in recent months. Things will be less tearful and more joyful in 2009.



**Aries**

March 21-April 19

You know what you need to do, yet you're determined to do the exact opposite of what you're supposed to be doing. The sun has you in a rebellious mood. You'll flirt outrageously with someone, not worrying about the consequences.



**Taurus**

April 20-May 20

Saturn has you daydreaming about the past. You could be thinking about your high school sweetheart, wondering what-ever happened to him. Or you could be reminiscing about your former fiancé, wondering if he's still in love with you.



**Gemini**

May 21-June 21

You could enjoy some exciting New Year's celebrations as Mercury kicks up the social opportunities. You might be invited to the party of the year. Or perhaps you'll host one of your own at home. Connect with people in light-hearted, hopeful ways.



**Cancer**

June 22-July 22

You're in the mood to get cozy with someone. If you're single,

you could express your sensual craving for that attractive friend over the New Year's holiday. If you're involved with a sweet-heart, you could enjoy some steamy moments at home.



**Leo**

July 23-Aug. 22

The sun is urging you to get more practical. If you can't go away to the Caribbean for New Year's, light a fire in the fireplace and snuggle with your honey. If you're hoping for tons of private time with your partner, family obligations could interfere with your plans.



**Virgo**

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

If you feel a little droopy this New Year's, it could be the fault of a moon opposition. Stay at home and do a little meditating. Set your goals for 2009. Talk about your plans with your honey so you and your partner are on the same page.



**Libra**

Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Lively Mercury is inspiring you to socialize in a big way. You'll attend multiple parties, try lots of exotic cocktails and flirt your socks off. Other items of clothing also might be removed along the way—if you're lucky. Happy New Year!



**Scorpio**

Oct. 24-Nov. 21

Venus is moving into a friendly sign for a few weeks, helping you to get clear about your feelings. You'll finally figure out what you really want from a certain someone. Is it time to get married or split up? Something big is brewing.



**Sagittarius**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You and your honey might find yourself desiring different things this week. A moon square could create some awkward moments in the bedroom. You might mis-read each other's signals. Some sexy, straightforward discussions should help.



Fletcher Jones Volkswagen



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without

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Zero due at signing. Zero down payment.  
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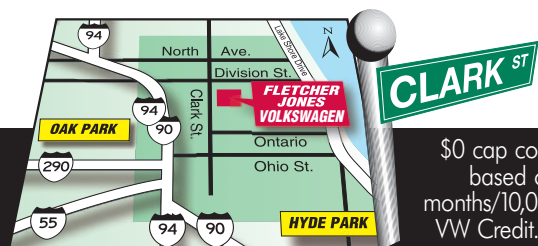
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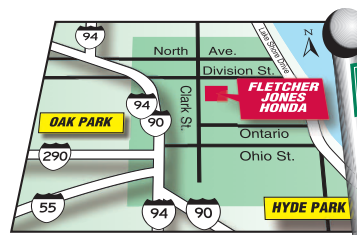
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2006 HONDA ELEMENT .....	Silver, 31,540 Mi.....	<b>\$14,999</b>
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'05 Audi A4 AWD	Auto, Air, Leather, Sunroof, Quattro, #4385A	\$14,995
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'08 Subaru Legacy SE Sedan	Sunroof, Auto, Air, Alloys, 11K, 4613A	\$16,995
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'08 Subaru Legacy 2.5i SE	Sunr., Alloys, Auto., Grey or Black #P3257/72	\$16,495
'07 Subaru Legacy 2.5i SE Sedan	Auto, Air, Alloys, Black, #P3229	\$15,495

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'03 JAGUAR X-TYPE AWD Lthr/Htd, Mnrfl, CD!	\$11,990
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### 2009 CHEVY COBALT XFE COUPE

BETTER STANDARD HIGHWAY GAS MILEAGE THAN TOYOTA COROLLA<sup>1</sup>

**\$15,670** MSRP  
- **\$1,978** TOTAL RED TAG DISCOUNT<sup>2</sup>

**\$13,692** RED TAG PRICE AFTER ALL OFFERS

EPA EST.  
**37**  
MPG HWY.



### 2008 CHEVY EQUINOX LS FWD

BETTER HIGHWAY FUEL ECONOMY THAN DODGE NITRO AND JEEP LIBERTY<sup>3</sup>

**\$23,650** MSRP  
- **\$6,073** TOTAL RED TAG DISCOUNT<sup>2</sup>

**\$17,577** RED TAG PRICE AFTER ALL OFFERS

EPA EST.  
**24**  
MPG HWY.



### 2009 CHEVY MALIBU

1LT W/AVAILABLE 6-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION

BETTER HIGHWAY GAS MILEAGE THAN COMPARABLE TOYOTA CAMRY<sup>4</sup>

**\$22,990** MSRP  
- **\$1,883** TOTAL RED TAG DISCOUNT<sup>2</sup>

**\$21,107** RED TAG PRICE AFTER ALL OFFERS

EPA EST.  
**33**  
MPG HWY.



### 2009 CHEVY TRAVERSE 1LT FWD

BETTER HIGHWAY FUEL ECONOMY THAN HONDA PILOT<sup>5</sup>

**\$31,545** MSRP  
- **\$2,239** TOTAL RED TAG DISCOUNT<sup>2</sup>

**\$29,306** RED TAG PRICE AFTER ALL OFFERS

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<sup>1</sup> EPA estimated MPG highway: Cobalt XFE 37 vs. Corolla 35.

<sup>2</sup> Includes total cash back.

<sup>3</sup> EPA estimated 2WD MPG highway: Equinox 24 vs. Nitro and Liberty 22.

<sup>4</sup> EPA estimated MPG highway (with 4-cylinder engine and 6-speed automatic transmission): Malibu 1LT 33 vs. Camry XLE 31.

<sup>5</sup> EPA estimated MPG highway: Traverse LT 24 (FWD), 23 (AWD) vs. Pilot 23 (FWD), 22 (AWD).

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1	8	3			9			
6		5			2			8
		8			5			
3			7		6			1
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		6	1					3
7			8					1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



2	8	5	9	1	3	7	6	4
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7	6	4	3	5	1	2	9	8
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3	9	8	4	6	2	5	1	7

## SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

C	H	A	T		A	R	A	B		S	P	O	T	S
H	A	L	O		L	O	W	E		S	E	R	R	A
E	R	I	K		F	O	A	L		T	R	I	E	S
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E	R	R	E	D		N	I	P		T	E	T	O	N
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T	R	A	M		L	O	N	E		L	I	L	A	C
H	A	T	E	D		R	I	C	E		D	I	N	A
A	R	E	N	A		T	O	R	K		A	B	U	T
N	E	S	T	S		S	N	U	G		L	I	P	S

## ACROSS

- 1 Charmer's snakes
- 7 Golfer Ernie
- 10 Elevator man?
- 14 Rupture
- 15 Destiny
- 16 Uncommon
- 17 Unsparring
- 18 Explosively unstable
- 20 Like some kitchens
- 22 Uneasy feeling
- 23 Pie fillers
- 27 Singer's engagement
- 28 Does a favor for
- 29 Subtlety
- 33 Took lodgings
- 34 Merchandise levy
- 35 Columnist Hentoff
- 36 Drunkard
- 37 SASE, e.g.
- 38 Wisply delicate
- 42 Withdraw formally
- 45 Attack
- 46 Mexican dish
- 47 Fig. of speech
- 48 Train-car connectors
- 49 Log structure
- 52 Slack
- 53 Checked
- 55 Displays
- 60 Black and Red, e.g.
- 61 Smallest bill
- 62 Uses a chisel
- 63 Point to the right?
- 64 Father
- 65 Tubb or Truex

## DOWN

- 1 Natl. TV network
- 2 Mine product
- 3 Soprano Sills, casually
- 4 Dawn Chong
- 5 Farmland
- 6 Cut fleece
- 7 "Don't Be Cruel" singer
- 8 Bird with a laughlike cry
- 9 Letters on Cardinal caps

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14							15				16			
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49	50	51					52							
53							54			55		56	57	58
60							61			62				
63							64			65				

- 10 Citrus fruits
- 11 Zesty flavor
- 12 Eye part
- 13 Offshoot group
- 19 Capt. Queeg's ship
- 21 6-pointers
- 23 Eye membrane
- 24 Wolfpack subs
- 25 Three-toed creatures
- 26 Allen or Curry
- 27 Dodger great Hodges
- 29 Excess weight

- 30 Addison's partner
- 31 Polishing machine
- 32 Surplus
- 34 Fa-la link
- 36 Fri. follower
- 39 Least hard
- 40 Demolishes
- 41 Shade tree
- 42 Frankfurter's cousin
- 43 Sovereign ruler
- 44 Pres. Coolidge
- 46 Also

- 48 Enciphered
- 49 Attache, e.g.
- 50 Location
- 51 Lingerie pieces
- 52 Olin or Horne
- 54 Director Browning
- 56 Take off
- 57 Birthday figure
- 58 Affirmative
- 59 Mach+ plane



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# Now playing

## Fresh-faced Gabriel Macht getting into 'The Spirit'

Is this Gabriel Macht's big moment?

The acting vet, who plays superhero the Spirit in Frank Miller's movie of the same title, has attracted some buzz for his work as the main character.

Asked by the L.A. Times if he thought "The Spirit" would be the movie that defined his career, Macht had to chew on it.

"This is your 'breakthrough chance,' but I feel like every role gives you something different, lessons and opportunities," Macht told the paper.

So what other roles has this guy worked on? We've got the answer for you right here. Just check out our list of the top 10 things you might not know about Mr. Macht, courtesy of the Times.



- 1** He's a month shy of his 37th birthday.

**2** He's been acting since age 8.

**3** He is the son of TV actor Stephen Macht ("General Hospital").

**4** He co-starred with John Travolta and Scarlet Johansson in the 2004 film "A Love Song for Bobby Long."

**5** He was cast by Robert De Niro in "The Good Shepherd," which also starred Matt Damon.

**6** He also played the doomed cosmic-country singer Gram
- Parsons in "Grand Theft Parsons."

**7** Keeping with the music theme, one of his favorite stage roles was playing Elvis Presley in the off-Broadway production of Steve Martin's "Picasso at the Lapin Agile."

**8** He's now at work on the dark indie comedy "Middle Men," a tale of Internet porn and Russian mobsters.

**9** His Hollywood resume consists mostly of supporting roles and indie fare.

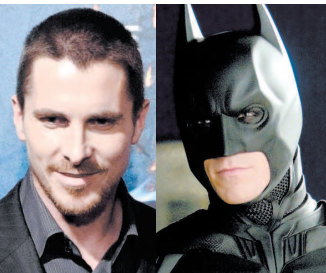
**10** He's a grad of the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama.



Macht  
CAROLYN COLE / L.A. TIMES

## Kiss of death? No way!

Once upon a time, superhero roles were considered career-killers. But not anymore. Look at these leading men who have made bank with superhero roles.



CHRISTIAN BALE, BATMAN



HUGH JACKMAN, WOLVERINE



ROBERT DOWNEY JR., IRON MAN



TOBEY MAGUIRE, SPIDER-MAN



WILL SMITH, JOHN HANCOCK



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**Kristi Yamaguchi  
and Mark Ballas**  
ABC

## Down and out

"Dancing with the Stars" has suffered yet another injury, this time with Mark Ballas going down during the tour. The Season 6 champ (with figure skating queen Kristi Yamaguchi) is out with a groin injury, **people.com** reported. Ballas reportedly told the audience at Staples Center in L.A. on Saturday that he'd be out of the "Dancing" tour—which is coming to Allstate Arena in Rosemont on Jan. 9—for "a couple of weeks" while he recovers. Ballas is expected to return to "DWTS" for its eighth season, which kicks off on ABC on March 9.

## Slow 'Development'

"Arrested Development" star Will Arnett says the show must go on. The comedian tells Entertainment Weekly that he's eager for a big-screen version of the canceled TV show. "I can't wait to strap that fake hand back on and fight the seal once and for all—wait, which guy did I play?" Seriously, though, he says, "It'll be fun to get back together with everybody and work on it. It's been so long now, we almost have to do it."



**Arnett**

## Barack the clothes

Aside from proclaiming himself the voice of his generation, Kanye West is making another claim—that he has the design skills to outfit President-elect Obama for the club. According to quotes from London's the Sun, reported by MCT, West says: "I could design something for Obama to go to the club in. But I don't know if I'm ready for suits and stuff."



**West**

## She said, he said

Michael Lohan is defending himself by using the power of the Web. After LiLo blogged about how Daddy Lohan cheated on her mom, resulting in another child, Michael Lohan launched [www.mikelohanonline.com](http://www.mikelohanonline.com) to set the record straight, the New York Daily News reports. He plans to post daily.

## Best in show

The year-end best-of lists keep piling up, so here's another one: Pete Wentz asked certain people to list their top 5 things of 2008 and he posted the answers on his Web site, [petewentz.com](http://petewentz.com). Among the faves included Apple TV (John Mayer's No. 5); Web site [itsthereal.com](http://itsthereal.com) (Gym Class Heroes' Travis McCoy's No. 4); and cherry Pop Tarts (Pharrell Williams' No. 3).

## txtable

## Celebrity twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to [dlhernandez@tribune.com](mailto:dlhernandez@tribune.com). For Monday, we have Gerard Frances. Think he's a ringer for Paul McCartney? Text "**paul**" and the number of your opinion to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

**1. Dead on 2. Way off**



**Frances**



**McCartney**



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# red hot



## Here comes the bride—or not

The engagement plot thickens. The Internets were abuzz over the weekend that Super Bowl hero Tom Brady and supermodel girlfriend Gisele Bündchen got engaged, but it's just "rumor, rumor, rumor." Or at least it is to Daddy Brady. "We don't know a thing about it," Tom Brady Sr. told *The Boston Globe*. "Nobody told me. We talked to him and there's nothing to say. It's rumor, rumor, rumor. It must be a slow news day." Bündchen's twin sister, Patricia, also denied the report, according to **people.com**. The engagement story is just the latest gossip surrounding the quarterback and his longtime girlfriend, including reports the couple has been ring shopping and planning a small wedding in Costa Rica.

**Bündchen and Brady**  
GETTY IMAGES FILE

**txtable**

### 'Marley' and money

"Marley & Me" made \$14.7 million on opening day—a new Christmas Day record. Which movie held the previous record at \$10.2 million? Text "**marley**" and the number of your answer to **47383**. You'll get a text back telling you whether you got it right.

- 1) Ali
- 2) Dreamgirls
- 3) Cast Away
- 4) Fun With Dick and Jane

#### THE DIGIT

### \$3.4 million

The amount you'd have to pay to truly keep up with the Kardashians—or at least to live in the home the family's E! reality show is filmed in. Hoping to move to larger digs, the family recently put the Hidden Hills, Calif., home up for sale, the Los Angeles Times reports.

#### Good dog, 'Marley'

Merry Christmas, Hollywood. The big names were in theaters—Jennifer Aniston, Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise among them—and moviegoers gave the industry a big gift (and lift) in a huge holiday weekend at the box office. "Marley & Me" topped the charts with an estimated \$37 million in weekend earnings and \$51.7 million since opening on Christmas Day. It was followed by Adam Sandler's "Bedtime Stories" (\$28.1M and \$38.6M), "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" (\$27M and \$29M); and "Valkyrie" (\$21.5M and \$30M). It's safe to say Hollywood won't be returning this gift.

#### THE VELVET ROPE

#### Little pink Bentley

Christmas apparently wasn't ruined after all for Paris Hilton—despite recently having an estimated \$2 million in jewelry swiped from her home. The queen of socialites bought herself a Bentley Continental GT with a list price of about \$200,000.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that this Bentley is rose-colored. It reportedly has monogrammed seats, a sparkling "PH" where the usual hood ornament is located and tinted windows.

Last time this office checked, pink was not a standard color for Bentley. Maybe the luxe carmaker is branching out into the Barbie-mobile business.

#### What's in a name?

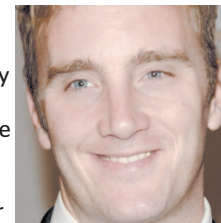
Nothing says "happy anniversary" like changing your name for the woman you love.

Comedian Jay Mohr filed a petition last week to add his

wife's last name to his, E! News reported. So, legally, his full name is Jon (his birth name) Ferguson Cox Mohr.

Good call in not reversing the order of the last names.

The "Gary Unmarried" star and "Las Vegas" actress Nikki Cox tied the knot on Dec. 29, 2006.



**Cox Mohr**

#### 'Batman' rumors abound

Calling "The Dark Knight" a success is like calling Mt. Everest a hill. So it should come as little surprise that, as the Tribune reports, rumors already abound about a third Batman movie in Chicago.

Trade publication *Production Weekly* reports "Batman 3" as entering pre-production in February, and **reelchicago.com** speculated that an office could open up in the city in early 2009.

The most popular rumors: Johnny Depp as The Riddler alongside Philip Seymour Hoffman as The Penguin. And an intriguing one: Rachel Weisz ("The Constant Gardener") as Catwoman, according to E! Online.

No truth to the rumor, however, that "Whip It" will be Catwoman's theme song.

